

NOTES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW AUSTRALIAN FISH.

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APOGON ROSEIGASTER, sp. nov.

B. vii. : D.  $6 \frac{1}{10}$  : A.  $2/9-10$  : V.  $1/5$  : P. 12-13 : C. 17.

Length of head  $3\frac{1}{5}$ , of caudal fin  $4\frac{3}{4}$ , height of body  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in the total length. *Eye*—diameter  $3\frac{2}{5}$  in length of head,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a diameter from the end of snout, and  $\frac{4}{5}$  apart. Interorbital space slightly convex : upper profile of head nearly flat with a conspicuous median longitudinal ridge : maxilla reaches to beneath last fourth of orbit. Inner edge of preopercle crenulated on both limbs, and with a few small serrations at the angle : outer edge of preopercle, and preorbital, entire. *Teeth*—villiform on jaws and vomer. *Fins*—dorsal spines weak, the third the highest, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the length of the head ; soft dorsal much higher. Anal commences behind the origin of the soft dorsal, and like it is provided with a scaly sheath at the base. The ventral fins are half the length of the head and much shorter than the pectorals. Caudal slightly rounded. *Scales*—very deciduous. *Airbladder*—large, truncate in front, each angle bearing a short lobe. Peritoneum, and a lobe on either side of tongue, black. *Colors*—pale yellowish, with the lower parts roseate, this colour divided posteriorly into two gradually decreasing lobes by the anal fin, but not extending to the caudal ; upper half of spinous dorsal black : soft dorsal and anal pale red with a longitudinal black band about half way up ; other fins immaculate.

These little fishes appear to be plentiful in the Parramatta River, numbers being obtainable any morning in the fish market among prawns from that locality, along with the recently-recorded *Ambassis gymnocephalus*. Out of numerous specimens examined during the last two months the largest measured but 2·85 inches, and none were under 2 inches. All the examples examined during the latter half of October and the earlier half of November were spawning, the milt or ova running freely from them on the slightest pressure. The scales of this species must be very deciduous, since notwithstanding the numbers which we have handled, we have failed so far to detect a single scale on any specimen; and it is also noteworthy that the palatine bones are unfurnished with teeth, contrary to the rule holding good for other members of the genus.